

GENERAL

1. US requests Czechoslovak release of US soldiers--The Department of State has instructed US Ambassador Jacobs in Prague to urge the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister informally but emphatically that he arrange for the immediate deportation of the two US soldiers who were recently convicted of espionage by the Czechoslovak Government. Jacobs has been told to point out to the Foreign Minister that he must be aware that no grounds exist for an espionage charge and that the trial was a travesty of justice. Jacobs has been advised to emphasize particularly to the Foreign Minister that the US Government and public could never countenance such a miscarriage of justice involving American citizens and that a marked deterioration of US-Czechoslovak relations is bound to ensue if this request is denied.

The Department of State has requested US Political Adviser Riddleberger in Frankfurt to discuss with General Clay the possibility of taking steps other than closing off the Czechoslovak-US Zone Germany border if the Czechoslovak Government refuses to release the two US soldiers. The Department has informed Riddleberger of its view that no steps should be taken at this time which might lead to a break in US-Czechoslovak diplomatic relations.

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